

TWO GOOD REASONS TO GET AN HIV TEST:

1

IF YOU HAVE HIV,
YOU CAN GET TREATMENT
THAT MAY HELP YOU LIVE
A LONGER, HEALTHIER LIFE.

2

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE HIV,
YOU CAN LEARN HOW TO
STAY THAT WAY.

WHAT'S AN HIV TEST?

It's a test that tells you if you have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. People with HIV may have been infected for many years but did not know it because they had no symptoms and were not tested. There is medicine that can help people with HIV stay healthy longer, but there's still no vaccine or cure for HIV. Getting tested is the only way to know for sure if you have HIV.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HIV TEST, CALL:

NYS HIV/AIDS HOTLINE

English: 1-800-541-AIDS (541-2437)

Spanish: 1-800-233-SIDA (233-7432)

New York City HIV/AIDS Hotline: 1-800-TALK HIV (825-5448)

TO LEARN ABOUT FREE, ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING IN YOUR REGION, CALL:

Buffalo
1-800-962-5064

New Rochelle
1-800-828-0064

Rochester
1-800-962-5063
(716) 423-8120 TDD Line
(Rochester Only)

Nassau
1-800-462-6785

Syracuse
1-800-562-9423

Suffolk
1-800-462-6786

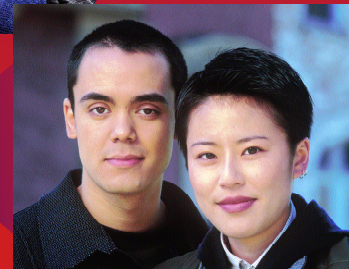
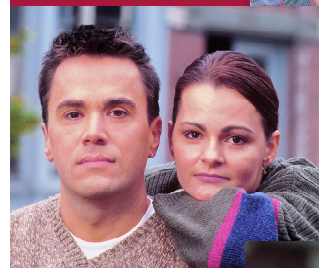
Albany
1-800-962-5065

Queens
1-800-462-6785



State of New York Department of Health

REASONS TO GET AN HIV TEST.



OTHER GOOD REASONS TO GET TESTED FOR HIV

- ◆ If you learn you have HIV, you can:
 - Learn how to avoid passing HIV to others.
 - Learn how to protect yourself from sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) — like herpes, syphilis, or chlamydia — and other diseases that may harm your health.
- ◆ If you are pregnant and learn you have HIV, you can take medicines to lower the chance of passing HIV to your baby.
- ◆ It's a regular part of taking care of your health. Make it a part of your medical check-ups.

WHO SHOULD GET TESTED?

- ◆ All pregnant women should be tested for HIV as early in pregnancy as possible.
- ◆ Everyone should be tested for HIV as part of regular health check-ups.
- ◆ All sexually active people and anyone who has ever used or abused drugs.
- ◆ You should also be tested if you have ever:
 - Shared needles or works to shoot drugs (even vitamins, insulin, or steroids).
 - Shared needles for piercing or tattooing.
 - Had sex without using a latex male condom or a female condom, especially with someone who has ever injected drugs.
 - Had an STD.
 - Had many sex partners.

IF YOU ARE PREGNANT OR PLANNING TO GET PREGNANT, GET AN HIV TEST.

A pregnant woman with HIV can pass the virus to her baby during pregnancy, birth, or breastfeeding. There is medicine that can greatly lower the chance that a woman with HIV will pass it on to her baby.

The sooner you are tested and learn if you have HIV, the sooner you can start medicines to stay healthy and lower the chances of passing HIV to your baby.

HOW DO YOU GET TESTED? IT'S EASY....

- ◆ Take a **rapid test** and get your results on the same day.
- ◆ You can get a blood test, OR, at some places, an oral HIV test that uses fluid from your mouth.
- ◆ There are many places to get tested. Most clinics, local health departments, and doctors test for HIV.
- ◆ Some places give the test for free.
- ◆ You can get an **anonymous test**. Anonymous testing means that you do not give your name. Call 1-800-541-AIDS (1-800-541-2437) to find an anonymous testing site near you.

WHO SEES YOUR TEST RESULTS?

- ◆ You and your doctor or health care provider.
- ◆ Results from a confidential HIV test become a part of your private medical record. Results from an anonymous HIV test are not shared with anyone.
- ◆ If you test positive, your result will be reported to the State Health Department. **This report is completely confidential.** It is used to help track the number of HIV/AIDS cases in the state to best plan programs to prevent HIV.

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF HIV:

- ◆ Get tested and let others know they are at risk and may need an HIV test. If you learn you have HIV, your spouse and anyone you have had sex or shared needles with should know they are at risk of infection and that they need to be tested. Your doctor or a Health Department counselor can help you plan to let these partners know. If you want, they can tell your partners for you without ever saying your name or anything else about you.
- ◆ Don't share needles or works to shoot drugs (including vitamins, insulin, or steroids).
- ◆ Use a latex condom every time you have sex, especially if you are not sure whether you or your partner has HIV.



CALL



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NEW YORK CITY HIV/AIDS HOTLINE 1-800-TALK HIV (825-5448)

Find free, anonymous HIV counseling and testing sites near you online: <http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/aids/testing/directory/anonct.htm>